

activity. Normally this depends on the detection of tubercle bacilli in the sputum or gastric smear, or by culture, and variations in the reliability of detecting such bacteria are well known. It is to be hoped that future monographs of this type will establish more clearly the basis upon which the final diagnosis of activity of pulmonary tuberculosis is made.

The monograph represents an enormous amount of work and should be of interest to all students of epidemiology and tuberculosis.

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THE POSTURAL COMPLEX—Observations as to Cause, Diagnosis and Treatment—Laurence Jones, B.S., M.D., Chief Orthopedist, Menorah Hospital, 1932-1943, Kansas City, Missouri; Visiting Orthopedist, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, 1944-1953; Midway Hospital, 1948-1954, Los Angeles. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1955. 156 pages, \$9.75.

Dr. Laurence Jones, the author of this book, has spent a good deal of time, written extensively and attempted to explain in a scientific and logical fashion the alterations and mechanics that produce pain in the low back, knees and feet, due to postural deformity in the lower extremities. A good deal of the book has to do with the presentation of the author's theories regarding the influence of evolutionary adaptation upon the development of postural change in the human body. If one accepts all of the presented theory as being factual, then a great deal of his conclusions must be also accepted as being logical and reasonable. If the book does nothing except to point out the importance of the postural complex in this day and age when intervertebral disk pathology and surgical intervention is resorted to so extensively, it has accomplished a very worthwhile purpose.

The meat of the book has to do with the author's specific steps in assuring proper correction of stance in the foot in order to correct the imbalance produced by postural deformity in the remaining portions of the lower extremities and low back. Anyone who would take the time to study the author's methods and put them into practice would help a good many people overcome the disability due to postural back ache and postural disability in the lower extremities without doubt.

There is no question but that the author presents a very solid argument for his theory and that there is a good deal to be said for it in practical application and treatment of postural back ache. The one valid criticism and real criticism is that the author presents his theory as being the total and complete answer to the problem of low back disability. I doubt if this is entirely correct. It is a book, however, that should be read carefully by anyone having occasion to see any number of patients with low back disability of any kind.

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PREPARING FOR MOTHERHOOD—Samuel R. Meaker, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Gynecology, Boston University, School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago Illinois, 1956. 196 pages, \$2.00.

Meaker's book on "Preparing for Motherhood," is an excellent little volume of 190 pages. It is a "manual for expectant parents." It tells the story of pregnancy and delivery and the postpartum period in simple, easily understood language. The information is up to date and strictly to the point. The author's views are conservative, and, I should say, representative of the majority opinion in the civilized world today. Satisfactory information is given about the early stages of pregnancy, its diagnosis, the symptoms and bodily changes. Early medical consultation is advised; the usual steps in antenatal examination and care are outlined. The most common complications are discussed, particularly in relation to the symptoms which might arise. Diet

is discussed in detail, in fact, in somewhat disproportionate detail. The events of labor are described and pain relief is discussed in terms of today's most usual routines, i.e. mild analgesia and sedation with Demerol and barbiturates or conduction anesthesia, particularly low spinal. Meaker does not attempt to impress a particular point of view, beyond that of conservatism. "Natural childbirth" is described in sympathetic but unenthusiastic terms. A very helpful portion of the book describes the after events and care, in relation to infant feeding whether breast or otherwise; exercises, checkup, examinations, etc. An attempt is made to bring the husband into the picture as much as possible in the interest of good psychological relationships. He is encouraged to be thoughtful and attentive to his wife during the antenatal period and to be with her during the first stages of labor whenever possible. His participation in the events of the puerperium, breast feeding, holding the baby, care in precluding the jealousy of prior children in the family, etc., are discussed very sympathetically.

A minor note of criticism. The print is too small for easy reading with my eyesight. However, the book would make a very acceptable assignment for certain sources of information for prospective parents.

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PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ADOPTION—Report of a Conference. Children's Bureau Publication—354, 1955, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, 43 pages, 20 cents.

The above pamphlet is a report on a conference on adoptions, participating in which were representative delegates from all parts of United States. It is an exceedingly worthwhile pamphlet and should be in the hands particularly of obstetricians and pediatricians. However since many doctors adopt children into their own families or advise other families regarding adoption it would be well for every medical person to be acquainted with its contents.

The first part of the conference was devoted to a summary of a study that was made by a single individual who visited different parts of United States in order to obtain direct information concerning adoption practices. Two places reputed to be practicing black marketing of babies were visited but areas that have good and workable laws concerning adoption procedure were also studied.

The report to the conference included figures on demand and supply of babies, studies on the prenatal care of unmarried as compared with married mothers, a summary of community resources and a review of state legislation. As the conference came under way the following subjects were discussed: In one group the problems reviewed were: The "hard to place" children; agency versus non agency placements; the Federal control question, and a "definition of terms." The second group discussed "professions in the forefront" under which the viewpoints of physicians, lawyers, social agencies, and other professionals were presented. The third group concerned itself particularly with "the child as the rallying point." The fourth section is the work groups' report, under the following headings: (1) philosophical and ethical considerations, (2) education, (3) extension of services, and (4) legislation, especially the Uniform Adoption Act and Inter-County Adoptions.

The pamphlet is highly recommended.

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CHEST X-RAY DIAGNOSIS—2nd Edition—Max Ritvo, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1956. 640 pages, 633 illustrations on 426 engravings and 1 color plate, \$16.00.

This second edition of a monograph dealing with the x-ray diagnosis of diseases of the chest is patterned essentially

on the first one. There are sections on roentgen methods of examination of the lungs, mediastinum, diaphragm and pleura. Then sections on diseases of the bony thorax and soft tissues of the chest wall, soft tissues of the neck, heart and great vessels, and pericardium. The introductory material remains sound and the suggestions for methods of interpreting roentgenograms are useful.

It appears to this reviewer that the importance of stereoscopy and lateral projection might be stressed a little more firmly. Thorough roentgen examination is a standard procedure in studying the gastrointestinal or urinary tracts, and should be a standard procedure in studying the chests of symptomatic persons. For this reason, lateral or oblique illustrations should accompany more of the anterior roentgenograms used to illustrate many of the diseases discussed in the text.

The author still apparently believes that bronchitis may be diagnosed by an anterior chest roentgenogram. The illustration and legend for this entity remains as in the first edition.

The illustration appearing on page 519 labelled "myocardial calcification" is identical with that appearing on page 478 of the earlier edition and is still labelled incorrectly (the entity shown is dense calcification of the mitral annulus).

Of more importance is the legend for figure 100 appearing on page 159. This reads "anthrocosis" when we suspect that the author means "anthrocosilicosis," since anthrocosis alone does not produce dense pulmonary nodular shadows of the type illustrated.

The volume is well printed and well bound. The index is adequate. It should be of value to students and general physicians.

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MODERN TREATMENT YEARBOOK—1956—A Yearbook of Diagnosis and Treatment for the General Practitioner—Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., M.Ch., D.Sc. F.R.C.S., F.R.S.E., F.R.S.A., F.A.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., Fellow of King's College, London, Editor. The Medical Press, London, Distributed in U.S.A. by Williams and Wilkins Company 1956. 344 pages, \$6.00.

Each yearly summary of medical activities has its own format. This one is composed of a group of monographs on treatment by various English authorities. The 1956 volume, twenty-second year of the series, contains 37 articles. They vary rather widely in form and quality. On the whole, they make interesting reading, but they fail to give the reader the quantity of recent medical and surgical research to which the American reader has become accustomed.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL HOUSE STAFF MANUAL—7th Edition—F. William Wagner, Jr., M.D., Editor; The Cunningham Press, Alhambra, California. 728 pages.

If one can imagine oneself as an intern, confronted suddenly with the complexities of a 3,411-bed hospital and the necessity of treating serious disease by the more-or-less remembered teachings of medical school, one can immediately visualize the principal usefulness of this manual. The 7th edition of the House Staff Manual represents the co-operative efforts of the combined attending and resident house staff of the Los Angeles County Hospital to provide the intern and resident within the hospital with specific advices relative to the operation of the hospital itself: To the diagnosis and treatment of various major categories of disease, (e. g. infectious disease, body fluid and electrolyte disorders, respiratory disease); and to the fundamental procedures of particular services (e. g. anesthesia, orthopedics, laboratory).

The manual is well printed and clearly written and will admirably serve its purpose as described. Certain specific merits and faults might be mentioned. The Spanish vocabulary is an unique feature; there is an excellent table showing the electrolyte content of various parenteral solutions; and revision of most sections has been brought up to the minute of printing. Other sections are less modern, tetracycline is not mentioned as an antibiotic. A section equilibrating the common name of substances with the poisons they contain, should be most useful, but the conversion table for milliequivalents per liter and milligrams per cent appears both on page 87 and page 628.

Lastly, it is painful to see, in a teaching manual, the word "pathology" used for "pathological process" and the name Burrow's, he of the solution, written with an additional "r."

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A COURSE IN PRACTICAL THERAPEUTICS—3rd Edition—Martin Emil Rehfuss, M.D., F.A.C.P., LL.D. (Hon.) Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus and Director of the Division of Therapeutics in the Dept. of Medicine, The Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Alison Howe Price, A.B., M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1956. 972 pages, \$15.00.

The third edition in eight years of this large and practical manual of treatment brings it up to date with fairly extensive revision of the sections dealing with the treatment of specific disorders and those concerned with specific drugs. In these fields there have been tremendous changes and the editors have done their best to keep abreast of them.

On the other hand, general therapeutic principles have not changed and there has been little alteration of this section, which is well presented.

As we have before, (76, 5, 366 (May) 1952) we recommend this volume to internists, to general practitioners and, particularly, to medical students.

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MANAGEMENT OF PAIN IN CANCER—Edited by M. J. Schiffrin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Anesthesiology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1956. 245 pages, \$4.50.

This book is an admirable review of an important aspect of the management of many patients with incurable cancer. It should be of real value to any physician who undertakes the care even of an occasional patient with advanced cancer and who wants to achieve the best possible control of pain by methods both old and modern. The book is somewhat wider in scope than the title alone would indicate; there are discussions of the use of steroid hormones and chemotherapeutic agents and their palliative indications, of surgical measures for lesions in the respiratory, intestinal and urinary tracts which are of value in the general management of advanced cancer. Specific problems in the relief of pain are considered under the headings of "Systemic Analgetics," "Nerve Blocks" and "Neurosurgical Aspects" and there is a valuable discussion on the psychological aspects of pain.

The volume is not as bulky as its 245 pages would indicate as the pages measure approximately 7 x 4½ inches thus producing a volume of almost pocket-book size. Its format makes for easy reading. There is an adequate index.

The chief deficiency is in the lack of illustrations or diagrams except in the chapter devoted to nerve blocks. Several of the authors condone a common and annoying semantic abuse in medical literature, the use of the word "malignancy" for malignant neoplasm or, even a more succinct generic designation, cancer.